

Inquiries of the Ministry

Transport who has refused to answer questions. What kind of a government is it that will not give answers to our questions?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I wonder whether this is a point of order.

Mr. Woolliams: It may not be a point of order, Mr. Speaker, but it is a point of emergency on which Your Honour ruled a short time ago. These ministers will not answer; they will not even come into the House of Commons to grace this place with their presence. Parliament is falling to pieces now, and you are the Speaker.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Saskatoon-Biggar.

Mr. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggar): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a supplementary question which I should like to direct to the Minister without Portfolio since he is certainly speaking for the Minister of Agriculture. Will the government undertake a program to co-ordinate the use of farm drying equipment that is now available on farms and to give financial assistance to farmers toward the cost of operating dryers in order to avoid the possibility of substantial losses because of damp grain?

Mr. Lang (Saskatoon-Humboldt): Mr. Speaker, I will be glad to bring these representations to the attention of the Minister of Agriculture.

Mr. R. R. Southam (Ou'Appelle-Moose Mountain): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister without Portfolio. I am sorry to see that the Minister of Agriculture and the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce are not in their places as they should be according to the roster. Will the government take under consideration the question I put two months ago to the Minister of Agriculture in which I suggested that in a similar emergency in 1959 with wheat and other grain under the snow acreage payments were made and asked whether this could not be considered now so as to alleviate the financial difficulties in which the farmers find themselves at this time?

Mr. Lang (Saskatoon-Humboldt): Mr. Speaker, of course I must point out that this is a problem which was apparently much more serious a month or two ago when the hon. member put his question than it is now. With regard to the question as to how many

[Mr. Woolliams.]

people the suggestion would help, this situation is certainly being examined at this time.

Mr. S. J. Korchinski (Mackenzie): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister without Portfolio from Saskatoon. Now that we have lost one month in drying grain at the lakehead terminals, will the terminals be operating their drying facilities on a 24-hour seven day basis?

Mr. Lang (Saskatoon-Humboldt): Mr. Speaker, I will have to bring that question to the attention of the Minister of Agriculture.

Mr. John Burton (Regina East): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Finance. Is the minister in a position to provide the house with some particulars of the proposal to allow accelerated depreciation on farm grain dryers as referred to by the Minister of Agriculture in the house on Monday evening?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, regulations in this regard are being drafted and will probably be issued early next week.

Mr. Woolliams: Congratulations! At least this minister is answering questions.

Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina-Lake Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister without Portfolio from Saskatoon. Can he advise the house whether the government has made any provision for additions to the drying facilities of the inland terminals by the purchase of this equipment and its immediate installation in order to increase the capacity of the dryers?

Mr. Lang (Saskatoon-Humboldt): Mr. Speaker, I can only draw attention again to what I said before, namely, that the question is being directed to the wrong department.

Mr. Benjamin: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, may I then ask whether the acting minister of agriculture or anyone who has something to do with agriculture can answer any of these questions?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

An hon. Member: Where the hell are they?

AIR CANADA**CONSIDERATION OF POSSIBLE CHANGE
IN OWNERSHIP**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to